

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 32, 36, 38, 42-43, and 46 are requested to be cancelled.

Claims 18, 29, 31, 33, 39, and 44 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 18-24, 26-31, 33-34, 39-41, and 44-45 are now pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 23 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that dependent claims 38, 39, and 43 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 38 (now cancelled). Independent claim 18, and corresponding dependent claims 19-24, 26-28, and 39-41, are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 32 and 38 (both now cancelled). Independent claim 29, and corresponding dependent claims 30-31, 33-34, and 44-45, are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 36 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 1. Claims 36 and 46 have been cancelled.

On pages 3-19 of the Office Action, claims 18-24, 26-34, 36, 40-42, and 44-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over various references. Claims 32, 36, 42, and 46 have been cancelled. Independent claims 18 and 29 have been amended to incorporate subject matter indicated as being allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of independent claims 18 and 29, and corresponding dependent claims 19-24, 26-28, 30-31, 33-34, 39-41, and 44-45, is respectfully requested.

* * *

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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